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**A Weekly Column for the
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Honoring Fallen Service Members This Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day in which people around the country — even around the world — remember those who have died in our nation’s service. More than two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of this day of remembrance. However, it is not important what city was the first to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice; it’s important that we come together and honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. The day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the day of remembrance was New York in 1873, and by 1890, Memorial Day was recognized by all of the northern states in the nation.

Memorial Day is now celebrated across our country on the last Monday in May, a declaration passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971. Sadly, the observance of Memorial Day has become overlooked as citizens have forgotten the meaning and tradition of the holiday. Graves of the fallen at cemeteries across the country are increasingly becoming ignored and neglected. And many people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution was passed by Congress in December 2000. The resolution asks Americans at 3:00 p.m. “to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps.’”

I urge you to join with me in a moment of remembrance for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. This call for silence is a way for Missourians across the state to properly show their respect

and help return some meaning back to why we celebrate Memorial Day — a moment set aside one day of the year for our nation to get together and remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service for our country.

Please help return the solemn and sacred spirit back to Memorial Day. Fly your American flags proudly, and remember those who served and protected the freedom that you still have today. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at:

delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

